

SERIOUS FIRES BREAK OUT AT THREE PLACES

G. M. ALEXANDER NEW PRESIDENT OF TRACTION CO.

Succeeds J. O. Watson Who
Becomes Chairman of
Board.

S. L. WATSON RETIRES

New Management Will Seek
to Make Good Past
Promises.

George M. Alexander, who has just returned to Fairmont after a number of months service in the Ordnance department of the War department, was elected president of the Monongahela Valley Traction company at a meeting of the directors and officers of the corporation held yesterday afternoon in the company's offices in the Watson building.

This action followed the resignation of S. L. Watson, chairman of the board of directors, and the advancement of J. O. Watson, until yesterday president of the corporation, to that post.

Announcement of the changes effected at the meeting of the directors was made at the close of the meeting by Col. C. W. Watson who said that the new management was not going to make any promises and that it would devote all of its time at the start to making good on the promises that have been made.

The M. V. T., Colonel Watson added, is one of the best properties in the country with a wonderful future before it, but the only way in which it may hope to realize that future to the full is to serve the public of the valley well and for purely selfish reasons as well as because of their feeling of loyalty to the communities and people the officers of the company are going to see to it that Monongahela Valley Traction will be but another name for good service.

The new president of the company has been identified with it for a number of years as the head of its legal department. Upon him fell much of the detail involved in the absorption of the Parkersburg lines, the purchase of the Stafford mine, the beginning of the great power plant at Rivesville, which is now nearing completion.

S. L. Watson whose retirement made possible yesterday's changes was the first president of the company and served in that capacity a long time until he was succeeded by J. O. Watson, who now succeeds him as chairman of the board. S. L. Watson got into traction development in the early days and was one of the pioneers both in this city and Clarksburg. He is sometimes referred to as the father of the Monongahela Valley Traction company. In recent years, however, S. L. Watson has not been very active in traction company affairs.

The change in the management of the traction company went into effect at once and President Alexander was "on the job" bright and early this morning getting a "close up" of his new duties and responsibilities.

Situation Bad in East Prussia

(Associated Press.)
BASEL, Thursday, Jan. 31.—The American's Berlin correspondent says the situation in east Prussia is very serious. Several Bolshevik divisions are facing the eighth army and 70,000 are being the tenth army. The dispatch adds that it is feared the German forces will be insufficient to effectively resist.

PAINTERS.

Local Union No. 928 will meet the first and third Monday of each month beginning with February, in Moose Hall.
CHAS. MANN, Rec. Sec.

Normal Lecture Course

Grand Opera House, Friday, January 31, 8:15 p.m. Bernard R. Ford, an electrical wizard, comes to present as the third number of the Normal Lecture Course. He is not a magician, and neither does he do mere tricks, but is the best up-to-date scientist and performs various electrical experiments, and gives demonstrations, explaining each in detail, or actually does the things that we read about, whether it be in war-tales or commercial world.
Tickets at A. G. Martins. Admission fifty cents.

WATER MAIN BROKEN BY SLIP OF HAND

Is Second Happening of
That Character in Past
Ten Days.

A slip in the road near the Shaft mine barn on Buffalo creek yesterday broke the city water main at that point and as a result residents of that section of the city are today without a water supply. City Water Commissioner Ira L. Smith was notified and has a force of workmen engaged in repairing the damaged main and it is believed the work will be completed and the water turned into the main by late this afternoon.

A similar break in a water main occurred Wednesday in the vicinity of Eleventh street and caused a water famine there for a short time. However this main has been repaired.

The city Water department is having considerable trouble with broken fire plugs caused by careless auto truck drivers backing their trucks into and breaking the hydrants. One was broken at the corner of ninety street and Pierpont avenue yesterday and one was reported today as being broken in front of the Jacobs building.

The hydrants which are of heavy metal were broken squarely off by the impact.

BELIEVES LAKE DEMAND WILL BE GOOD THIS YEAR

Coal Asso. Committee Has
Not Yet Seen
Hines.

Although no buying has been done in the lake trade as yet, W. V. Frazer, of the P. & O. Mining company, Cleveland, O., is in Fairmont today, and he has an optimistic outlook for the lake business during the coming season. He believes that the shipments will be very large this year.

The lake business, which starts about May 1 and usually continues until about December 1, is the big spring business of the Fairmont region. The coal is sent by rail to Loraine, O., from which port it is shipped over the Great Lakes to various points. Last year the shipment to the lakes totaled \$800,000 tons.

Hines Was Busy.
According to the information received today from Washington, D. C., the sub-committee of the National Coal association did not hold its conference yesterday with Walter D. Hines, director general of railroads, because of the mass of business that the official had before him. It is hoped that the railroad fuel situation may be gone over with him this week if possible.

Retaining Records.
Today J. Walter Barnes, Federal Fuel administrator for the State of West Virginia, received a letter from B. Harris, custodian of records of the United States Fuel administration, Washington, D. C., directing him what records should be sent to Washington and what could be disposed of.

This is Moving Day.
Late this afternoon J. Walter Barnes, Fuel administrator for the State of West Virginia, will remove his offices to the City building, taking up his room in the department of city finances. It is expected that Mr. Barnes will continue to hold the position until March 1, when the office will cease to function.

United Mine Workers.
J. L. Ballard and Nick Aiell, organizers, are at Monon today.
Sam Ballantyne, international organizer, is in Philippi today.
Ira Marks, organizer, is at Berryburg.

(Continued on page four.)

THE YANKEE "WATCH AM RHEIN"



A Yank doughboy of the American Third Division, Army of Occupation in Germany, on guard in Coblenz on the Rhine. On the opposite shore looms the Fortress of Ehrenbreitstein. Copyright Committee of Public Information. From Underwood & Underwood.

DANCES FOR CHARITY DENOUNCED AT REVIVAL

Largest Turn Out Since Sunday
at the First M. E.
Church.

Rather because of excuse for holding it more than the cause itself a dance recently held for the benefit of charity Fairmont was attacked last evening in the revival services at First Methodist Episcopal church by Rev. R. J. Yoak, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church, south, before 1,500 people.

There were six persons converted, five of whom were adults. One of the converts was a member of the Woodmen of the World, who attended the services in a body. The attendance figure last evening soared and it was the biggest congregation since Sunday night. There are 93 conversions to date.

Rev. Yoak said: "Men living in Fairmont who do not join the Christian faith because it interferes with their business are simply defying God. Men who have money invested in any building that is used as a dancing hall, a card room or illicit place, get your money out of it."

When I was pastor of one of the churches in Huntington a meeting of 500 men was called for the purpose of cleaning up the town and giving it a (Continued on page three.)

Charities Fund Passes \$1,200 Mark

Money continues to be received by Otis Wilson, treasurer of the Associated Charities' one thousand dollar fund and today the total is over twelve hundred dollars. Contributors since the last list was published are as follows:

Cash, S. A. Boehm, Chas. Wilcox, D. J. Curry, Mrs. E. E. Tetric, W. L. Brand, Cash, Laura J. Robinson, W. C. Smith, John C. McKinney, Jr., H. J. Hartley, H. C. Posten, Cora Kincaide, T. H. Funk, Franklin K. Day, Ernest Sherwood, Helen G. Stockly, C. E. Mumford, Cash, C. R. Hall, Holbert & Spedden Co., The Mid-West Virginia Box Co., Mrs. J. L. Hall, Chas. E. Hawker, W. D. Barrington, H. T. Daugherty, R. E. Rightmire, Alf Richmond, Cash, M. C. Jackson, J. E. Watson, J. Carr, Thos. P. McCray, Edward Bickelstaff, George E. Amos, The Brennen Co., Isa M. Neel, F. R. Cole, C. E. Meredith, A. B. Fleming, Cash, Mrs. W. S. Black.

HAS JOB IN FRANCE.
PARKERSBURG, W. Va., Jan. 31.—B. F. Perkins, of this city, has been commissioner to return to France and take charge of a touring exhibit of the Department of Agriculture. He made a tour of that country with the same exhibit during the war.

Boy Wanted

Bright industrious boy must be over 14 years of age. Opportunity to learn the printing trade. Apply Mr. Miller, Fairmont Printing & Publishing.

PRODUCER GAS COSTS HALF LESS THAN NATURAL

That is Result of Actual Operation at Willett's Plant.

AT THE BOTTLE WORKS

Morgan Produced There Doing Better Than the Cuban.

At least two gas producers in the city are measuring up to standard and so far have not only met all expectations but have gone a little way beyond. One of these is the Underwood Producer at the Willett's Clay company factory and the other is the Morgan Producer at the Owens Bottle Machine company factory. Of these two the Underwood Producer is probably bringing more real joy to the hearts of its owners than the Morgan. The Underwood is working like a charm with more gas being made than is actually needed at half the cost of natural gas. The Underwood Producer, of course, does not need to produce any very great quantity of gas because at this factory no gas is used except to fire six kilns of various dimensions where the clay parts for glass tumblers may be dried. The proposition at the Willett's Clay factory is a different one than the problem to be faced at the various glass factories in the city, though had the Willett's Company not found an adequate gas (Continued on Page Nine.)

FEW MORE DOLLARS NEEDED TO SAVE LIFE

Elks Make Generous Contribution to Fund Being Raised.

But a few more dollars are needed to save the life of the man afflicted with tuberculosis whose case has been taken in charge by the Public Health Nursing service. At 11 o'clock this morning the contributions totaled \$114.50, but it will require at least \$150 to effect a cure in this case, for the man will have to stay at the Terra Alta sanitarium for some time.

The Elks gave the fund a good boost today and contributions came in from several towns out in the country. One contribution a bit out of the ordinary was from a woman who enclosed seven dollars and called attention in her note to the fact that this would provide for one week's treatment. Contributions today are as follows:

Previously reported	\$ 44.50
Mrs. J. L. Hall	5.00
Devoy Beck (Worthington)	5.00
Cash	5.00
Mr. and Mrs. L. V. Reamer (Worthington)	5.00
T. H. Funk	10.00
Mrs. Nettie Martin (Monongah)	1.00
Cash	1.00
Mrs. F. P. Lyson	2.00
Osgood's Girls	5.00
B. P. O. Elks	25.00
Mrs. L. N. Wetzel	7.00
Harry, Engle	2.00
Total at 11 a. m.	\$ 114.50

Shorter Hours at Western Union

Effective February 1, the local Western Union Office will be closed at 10 P. M. instead of midnight as heretofore, because of decreased business. Operator J. D. Bligh has resigned and gone to his home in McKeesport, Pa., because of ill business. This vacancy will not be filled for the present. The hours will be shortened and Mr. Hobbie and Mr. McWhorter will handle the key.

ARMY OF HALF MILLION.
WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—An army of 500,000 men was unanimously decided upon today by the House military committee as the basis for determining the appropriation for army pay for the year beginning next July. Committee members said the number was expected to be the average force during the year.

More West Va. Troops Reach This Country

(By Associated Press.)
NEW YORK, Jan. 31.—The British transport Minnekahda arrived here today with 27,036 troops from France.
A majority of these men are of the 83d division, including companies A, B, C, D, I, K, L and M and the field and staff of the headquarters company of the 329th infantry. These troops are national army men from Ohio and West Virginia.

CHILDREN URGED TO DECIDE LIFE WORK VERY EARLY

Also They Are Urged to
Learn How to Solve
Own Problems.

Approximately one thousand school children and a large number of school teachers were present yesterday afternoon at the mass meeting held at the First Methodist Episcopal church which was addressed by John L. Alexander, of Chicago, superintendent of the Young People's division of the International Sunday school association.

The meeting was arranged by the Ministerial association and City Superintendent of Schools Otis G. Wilson was asked to furnish the crowd. This he did not the pupils of the High school and the seventh and eighth grades of the ward schools accompanied by their teachers attended the meeting in a body.

A spirited song service was conducted by Prof. Heston and the children sang by schools and entered heartily into the spirit of the occasion. Mr. Alexander who is a fluent and gifted speaker, spoke on the subject "Forward Step" and he gave his audience something to think about for some time to come. The trend of the address was toward impressing upon the children the importance of good citizenship and the steps necessary to attain to good citizenship. Mr. Alexander also urged upon the children the importance of deciding early in life what business or vocation he or she intended to pursue and the importance of finding out early in life what vocation, profession or business is best suited to the individual in order to bring out the best that is in him.

He also urged upon the children the importance of solving the small problems that have to be met with each day and adding that the solving of the small problems made it easy to solve the larger ones with which we are confronted almost daily.

Mr. Alexander related many stories, which illustrated how necessary it is for the boy or girl to plug away at his studies daily and to master them as he or she goes along and added that it is not always the child that displays unusual brilliant mental attainments that achieves the most in the long run.

One story which seemed to deeply impress the audience and which illustrated the necessity of solving daily the problems which confront the school girl or boy was as follows: Mr. Alexander was a member of a high school class numbering 47 pupils. In this class was one young man by the name of Kelley. Kelley said the speaker never solved a problem in his life but by his superior brains and mental attainments coupled with great aptitude managed to "put it over," so to speak, on his teachers with the result that he secured his diploma with high grades. He however did not retain the knowledge which he obtained in this haphazard way and in a visit to the Bowery in New York several years ago the speaker found Kelley there begging passably for a dime. Others in the class who obtained their knowledge by hard knocks and close application to their studies and who finished with perhaps lower grades had attained to high places in the ranks of life.

Application to study and not brains is what counts in the long run and the victor is the one who applies the best he has to getting out of himself the best that is in him. In closing he urged that the children read diligently their Bibles and to take Christ as their ideal stating that the full life develops intellectually, physically, spiritually and socially.

Accompanying Mr. Alexander to this city were Guy M. Van Buikirk, of Newark, Ill., who is soon to take up the work of the international Sunday school among the young people. He is recognized as an expert in this line, and Walter A. Snow, general secretary (Continued on page four.)

BLAZE IN CENTER OF BRADDOCK PA SPREADS RAPIDLY

Chemical Plant, at Nyack
N. Y. Destroyed By an
Explosion.

FIRE AT NAVY AIR PLANT

Six Machines in Danger
Were Rescued Before
Blaze Reached Them.

(By Associated Press.)
NYACK, N. Y., Jan. 31.—Three persons were reported missing and 30 others have been removed to a hospital within a short time after an explosion wrecked the plant of the Anti-Lime Products corporation near here today.

The fire which started from unknown cause was fanned by a heavy wind, adding to the difficulty of the firemen and navy personnel who joined in fighting the blaze.

The plant was damaged by fire, it became evident, immediately after the explosion. It was estimated the loss would exceed \$100,000. Reports that several school children had been killed proved to be untrue although several were cut by glass from the windows.

There were two explosions, the first was so heavy that many buildings in the neighborhood were shaken and damaged.

PITTSBURGH, Jan. 31.—Fire which threatened to wipe out the bulkhead section of Braddock, near here, had destroyed a furniture warehouse and a department store and was spreading rapidly at 10:30 this morning. Fire apparatus from East Pittsburgh and Rankin was summoned to aid the Braddock firemen in fighting the flames.

NEW YORK, Jan. 31.—Two barges each containing six aeroplanes, were destroyed in a fire which was sweeping the naval aviation station at Rockaway point today. New York city firemen from several stations were fighting the flames which threatened eight other barges.

An hour after the fire started the commander at Rockaway point reported to Rear Admiral Usher, commandant of the Third naval district here, that all the planes were removed from the burning building before the flames reached them.

RESERVOIR REPAIRS WILL BEGIN SOON

Commissioner Smith is
Merely Waiting on the
Weather Now.

With the advent of good weather, the city Water department will begin repairs on the big city water reservoir which will prevent waste of water which has been going on for some time.

The big reservoir has been leaking ever since its installation in the year 1908 and, according to conservative estimates, leaks an amount approximately 300,000 or 400,000 gallons of water every 24 hours.

Owing to the fact that the city authorities feared to drain this reservoir because the boiler and pumping facilities were not adequate to supply the consumer's demands were this large reservoir put out of commission the department has hesitated to remedy this condition until better storage and pumping facilities were secured. During the period required to make repairs the water will be pumped into the other reservoir, which it is thought will supply water in abundance for the consumers.

Should this weather keep up, according to Commissioner Smith, the repairs could go on at once. Comparatively little water is being consumed at this time and if there was any assurance of its keeping up now would be a good time in the opinion of Mr. Smith to begin the work.

Plans have been worked out by Mr. Smith and City Engineer A. H. Miller and these will be put into operation at the first possible moment.

Work on the boiler purchased at Youngstown, Ohio, last summer during the winter famine is progressing nicely and the latter part of March will see its completion.